GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:5899
ANSWERED ON:04.05.2005
CASES OF FEMALE FOETICIDE
Choudhary Smt. Anuradha;Chouhan Shri Shivraj Singh;Munshiram Shri ;Shahid Shri Mohammed

Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government is aware that maximum number of cases of female foeticide committed are from the four metropolitan cities of the country as reported in the Hindi daily Rashtriya Sahara dated April 6,2005;

(b) if so, the facts of the matter reported therein and the reaction of the Government thereto;

(c) whether the Government has collected figures in this regard from the metropolitan cities;

(d) if so, the present sex ratio in the country alongwith sex ratio in each metropolitan cities;

(e) whether the number of girls is less in proportion to number of boys in the metropolitan cities;

(f) if so, the reasons therefor;

(g) whether the female foeticide is being committed openly inspite of the ban on it;

(h) if so, the cases of female foeticide during last three years, State-wise ; and

(i) the remedial action taken/proposed to be taken in this regard?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH & FAMILY WELFARE (SMT. PANABAKA LAKSHMI)

(a) to (e): Low levels of female sex ratio has been a matter of concern for all in the country. As per 2001 census, the sex ratio in the country is 933. The sex ratio in Urban Agglomeration of four Metropolitan cities of Greater Mumbai, Kolkata, Delhi and Chennai is 822, 869, 822 and 955 respectively. The sex ratio of the Urban Agglomerate/Cities having population 10,00,000 and above is at Annexure-I.

(f): Some of the reasons put forward for low levels of female sex ratio are son preference, dowry, neglect of the girl child resulting in higher mortality at younger age, female infanticide, female foeticide, male bias in enumeration of population etc.

(g) to (i): No data on female foeticide is available as these are not done openly.

In order to check female foeticide, Pre-conception and Pre-Natal Diagnostic Techniques (Prohibition of Sex Selection) Act, 1994 was brought into operation from 1st January, 1996. The Pre-conception and Pre-Nnatal Diagnostic Techniques (Provision of Sex Selection) Act, 1994 has since been amended to make to more comprehensive. The amended Act and Rule came into force with effect from 14.2.2003. The Act prohibits determination and disclosure of the sex of the foetus. Under the Act, use of Pre-natal Diagnostic Techniques and genetic counseling is permissible for detection of certain genetic abnormalities. The violation of the Act is punishable with imprisonment up to 5 years and fine up to Rs.1.00 lakh apart from cancellation of registration and license.

As per the reports received from the States and UTs, 26199 bodies having ultrasound, image scanners etc. have been registered under the Act. As on 31.3.2005, there are 303 ongoing cases in the Courts/Police for various violations of the law. 33 ultrasound machine are also sealed/seized on violation of the law as per Annexure-II laid on the Table of the House.

It is, nevertheless, recognised that mere legislation is not enough to deal with this problem that has roots in social behavior and prejudices. Various activities have been undertaken to create awareness against the practice of pre-natal determination of sex and female foeticide through Radio, Television, and print media units. Workshops and seminars have been organized through Voluntary Organization at State/regional/district/block levels to create awareness against this social evil. Cooperation has also been sought from religious leaders, as well as medical fraternity to curb this practice. A `Save the Girl Child` Campaign with a view to lessen son preference by highlighting achievements of young girls have been launched. A National Monitoring and Inspection Committee including representative from National Commission for Women, Department of Women and Child Development and NGOs has been constituted to take stock of the ground realities by field visits to the problems states.

Annexure-I

Sex Ratio of the Country and UAs/Cities having Population 10,00,000 and above -2001 Census

S.No.	Name of UA/City	Status	Sex Ratio
India		Urban	900
1.	Greater Mumbai	UA	822
2.	Kolkata	UA	869
3.	Delhi	UA	822
4.	Chennai	UA	955
5.	Hyderabad	UA	931
6.	Bangalore	UA	908
7	Ahmadabad	UA	884
8.	Pune	UA	899
9.	Surat	UA	760
10.	Kanpur	UA	853
11.	Jaipur	MC	876
12.	Lucknow	UA	888
13.	Nagpur	UA	932
14.	Patna	UA	840
15.	Indore	UA	904
16.	Vadodara	UA	906
17.	Coimbatore	UA	952
18.	Bhopal	UA	898
19.	Ludhiana	MC	763
20.	Kochi	UA	1,023
21.	Visakhapatnam	UA	956
22.	Agra	UA	847
23.	Thane	MC	870
24.	Varanasi	UA	872
25.	Madurai	UA	977
26.	Kalyan-Dombivli	MC	884
27.	Meerut	UA	869
28.	Nashik	UA	870
29.	Jamshedpur	UA	899
30.	Jabalpur	UA	893
31.	Asansol	UA	890
32.	Dhanbad	UA	839
33.	Faridabad	MC	817
34.	Allahabad	UA	809
35.	Vijayawada	UA	971
36.	Pimpri Chnchwad	MC	851
37.	Haora	MC	842
38.	Amritsar	UA	863
39.	Rajkot	UA	907

UA = Urban Agglomeration
MC = Municipal Corporation

Annexure-II

Number of bodies registered, number of court cases and number of Machines seized/scaled under PC & PNDT Act 1994

Sl.No.	State/UT	No. of bodies# registered	No. of Court/ Police Cases	.No. of Machines seized / sealed

1	Andhra Pradesh	2141	8	-
2	Arunachal Pd.	14	-	
3	Assam	258	-	-
4	Bihar	457	6	1
5	Chhattisgarh	318	-	-
6	Goa	100	-	-
7	Gujarat	2269	14	-
8	Haryana	893	22	8
9	Himachal Pd.	179	-	1
10	J & K	4	-	-
11	Jharkhand	116	-	-
12	Karnataka	1842	20	-
13	Kerala	960	0	-
14	Madhya Pradesh	988	6	-
15	Maharashtra	4784	21	-
16	Manipur	25	-	-
17	Meghalaya	22	-	-
18	Mizoram	12	-	-
19	Nagaland	5	-	-
20	Orissa	279	1	1
21	Punjab	1212	51	10
22	Rajasthan	960	3	2
23	Sikkim	11	-	-
24	Tamil Nadu	2680	47	-
25	Tripura	42	-	-
26	Ultaranchal	276	1	
27	Uttar Pradush	2538	18	
28	West Bengal	873	10	10
29	A & N. Island	6	-	-
30	Chandigarh	66	-	-
31	D & N Haveli	7	-	-
32	Daman & Diu	12	-	-
33	Delhi	1805	75	-
34	Lakshadweep	9	-	-
35	Pondicherry	36	-	-
Total	26199	303	33	

Includes:

GCC - Genetic Counseling Centres
GL - Genetic Laboratories
GC - Genetic Clinics
USC/IC - Ultrasound Clinics/Imaging Centres
JAGCC/GC - Jointly as Genetic Counseling Centres/Gen.Labs./Gen. Clinics.
MC(V) - Mobile Clinics(Vehicles)
OB/IVFC/IC - Other bodies/IVF Centres/Infertility Centres.